

ORE THE DIGGER NEWSPAPER

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Guide around town

Howdy Folks!
WELCOME TO GOLDEN
WHERE THE WEST LIVES

A Message From the President

Dear members of the class of 2013,

I am delighted to have this opportunity to welcome you as the newest members of the Colorado School of Mines community.

The importance of a college education cannot be overstated. The statistics are well known. College graduates earn substantially more than non-college graduates – and the gap between these two groups continues to grow. A new report conducted by the National Association of Colleges and Employers is particularly relevant to our institution. The report shows that engineering disciplines account for four of the five disciplines getting the highest starting salary offers.

But in addition to these career

advantages, a college education provides you with so much more. It is a unique time in your lives to learn about yourselves, and to develop the leadership and citizenship skills – and the character – to become valued members of society.

As Mines students, you will be joining a unique learning community. Colorado School of Mines enjoys a global reputation in engineering and the applied sciences, particularly in the development and use of the Earth's resources. No other higher-education institution in the United States has an array of resource-related programs that is comparable in breadth or international reputation.

What we expect of you is that you will work hard with us for the next four years and participate fully in the Mines community. The work will be

difficult – at times very difficult – but I encourage you to devote yourself to it. I promise that you will not regret making the effort. I also strongly encourage you to take full advantage of the many activities available to you outside the classroom, including student professional organizations, intramural and club sports, more than 100 student clubs, student government, and much more. These activities, and the friendships you make through them, will greatly enrich your college experience.

We live in a complex world providing engineers and scientists with difficult challenges – from dealing with large-scale natural disasters, to developing new sustainable, environmentally friendly energy sources, to helping supply the basic necessities of life to inhabitants of the

developing world. Colorado School of Mines, with its special mission in the development of natural and human resources, has a crucial role to play in finding solutions to these and other challenges.

We are delighted that you will be joining us in the fall because you will each make your own unique contributions to the Mines community. You have already achieved significant accomplishments in your lives, and we know that you will continue to do so, making us, yourselves, and your families proud.

Welcome to Mines!

Sincerely,



M.W. Scoggins
President



COURTESY CAROL CHAPMAN

Intercollegiate war, 1919 style

Ryan Browne
Webmaster

In the middle of November, a shockwave woke Colorado School of Mines students and Golden residents. Golden looked up to Mt. Zion to see that an explosion had left the M lacking a 20ft section.

This act was the final shot in a war that erupted between the Colorado School of Mines and Denver University, a war that began just over a week previous, on November 5, 1919.

At the time, Denver University and the Colorado School of Mines were bitter rivals in football. Only a few years previous, pranks between the two schools were common, but had been ceased by mutual agreement. However, a report in a Denver newspaper of a plot by the Denver Pioneers to repaint the Mines symbol, the iconic M set on the side of Mt. Zion, in their crimson colors caused a furor on campus. Denver University immediately responded, claiming that the report was false, but actions were set in motion that would not easily be undone.

Early in the morning on Wednesday, November 4, several small explosions were heard on the Denver University campus, and when the noises were investigated, buildings around campus were found plastered with posters saying, "Get DU and then what? Give them hell Mines." Beyond the posters, no other damage was reported.

The following morning, 4 blasts

shook the Denver University campus. 25 sticks of dynamite, split into 5 clutches, had been planted on campus in front of the administration building. Fortunately for the buildings on the Denver University campus, 1 clutch of 5 of the sticks of dynamite failed to detonate. Even so, windows were blown out in buildings around campus including in the chapel, library, and residential buildings. In addition, the front wall of the administration building was cracked.

While there was not direct evidence of Mines' involvement, evidence was found that indicated that the dynamite was stolen from a clay plant in Golden, whose owner, ironically enough, was a DU alumnus and trustee. Regardless of the legal evidence, it was clear to the DU students that this was the work of CSM students. Late on the morning of November 6, the same day of the bombing, several students from the Denver University Dentistry School left for Golden with enough crimson paint, the color of the Denver Pioneers, to paint the 104 x 107 foot M.

Unfortunately for these students, the Orediggers, who had seen many attempts at defacing the M, had taken precautions to protect it. As the Pioneers were defacing the M, they were spotted from campus, which secured a humiliating fate for the Pioneers. When an alarm went up on campus, they tried to flee the mountain, however, CSM students set up a roadblock

on the road leading from Mt. Zion, and captured the charlatans. There were reports of shots fired by the fleeing Pioneers, but it was later reported that they might have been firing blanks.

The CSM students made sure that this was not an experience to soon be forgotten by the culprits. They dressed them in prisoner overalls, shaved their heads, and dyed a purple M into their scalp using silver nitrate. Silver nitrate is a chemical used to dye biological material, usually for study under a microscope. The DU students were going to be walking advertisements for the School of Mines for 6 or 7 months.

The Orediggers were on a roll at this point, and decided to kill another bird with this stone. They lured a Denver Post reporter to Golden with the bait of a huge story. Instead of finding a story, he was subjected to a similar treatment as the DU students. However, he was spared the shaving and branding. He did join the Denver University students in a parade through the street of downtown Golden. Later that evening, both the reporter and the DU students were released. The reporter was sent back with a warning to the Denver Post to stop their slanderous reporting.

Mines students, fearing another

attempt at the M, set up patrols armed with rifles and bayonets on the roads leading into Golden. In addition, a barricade was set up at the base of Mt. Zion in a manner designed to force vehicles to slow or even stop to successfully navigate the impedance. The students claimed the right to search all cars to ensure that DU students were not concealed inside.

CSM's President Victor Alderson gave official sanction to the actions of the students. While the school administration supported the actions, Colorado's governor

Oliver Shoup expressed his concern over the situation, noting that striking miners whose actions had

caused militia forces to be sent in to ensure peace were not permitted rifles, and yet college students were arming themselves. As he was currently dealing with more important issues, he expressed his hope that the school administration could find a solution without need of state assistance.

Finally, the schools were tired of the war, or perhaps they merely ran out of explosives. Either way, representatives from both schools met to negotiate a ceasefire. They decided that at this time that the contest should be decided by the football teams, those who should have determined it in the first place. The

truce managed to stand for a day, and both teams' fans acted the part of good sportsmen. A winter storm struck the region, creating terrible conditions for a football game. The field was covered in snow, so plays were short and fumbles were common. Both teams fought hard, but in the end, they had managed to fight only to a 0-0 tie.

This frustrated the abused Pioneers, and they sought revenge. The storm that ruined the football game gave DU the opportunity they needed. On the morning of November 13, Golden was shaken awake by the blast that left the M scarred. Upon inspection, it was determined that the blast could well have destroyed most of the M, were it not for the dynamite being poorly placed. Responding quickly to the bridge leading from Mt. Zion, Mines students were unable to apprehend the conspirators due to the severe snow. A raid of Denver University was contemplated to kidnap some students to act as the manual labor to repair the M, however, this suggestion was rejected.

The decision was made to allow a group of seniors to determine the next steps. As a Grand Jury was investigating the bombing of the Denver University, the governor was threatening military intervention, and the likelihood of mutually assured destruction was increasing, both schools met to work out a lasting truce. This truce, unlike the last, stood for nearly 10 years, but that is a story for another issue.

HIKING ACROSS GOLDEN

Neelha Mudigonda, Content Manager

Colorado is well-known for its scenic beauty, which provides us with several outdoor activities such as skiing, hiking, and mountain-biking. Living in Golden makes it possible for residents to conveniently access many of these hiking and biking trails that are close to town. Here are some interesting trails in the area.

matthews / winters park trails

Located just south of I-70 at the Morrison exit and close to the Red Rocks Amphitheater, the Matthews/Winters Park Trails consist of three trails - the Dakota Ridge Trail, Red Rocks Trail, and Morrison Slide Trail. The park contains a total of approximately 8 miles of trails.

dakota ridge trail

This trail is more familiar to mountain-bikers than hikers because of its rolling sections and technical loops; it also provides great views of the Eastern plains as well as the Red Rocks in the West.

red rocks trail

Adjacent to the Red Rocks amphitheater, this trail starts out in the midst of meadows. The trail begins above a creek, where many native species of birds and insects are present.

The plains and the meadows are good for beginning hikers. Also, the exposure to sunlight on this trail makes it welcoming even in the midst of winter. People often go horseback riding on this trail as well.

morrison slide trail

With its steep rocks and narrow dirt paths, Morrison Slide trail easily attracts both climbers and bikers.

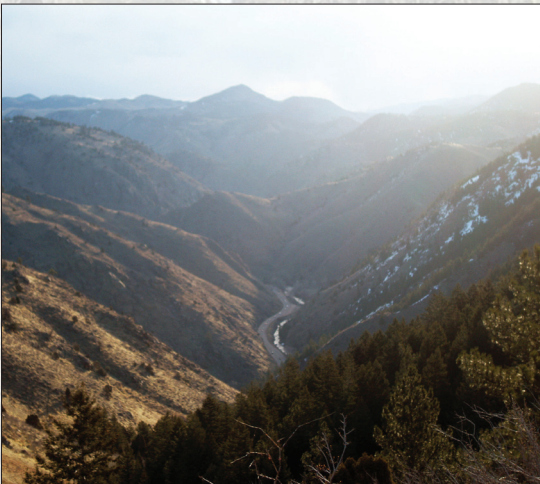
The hogback in the Matthews/Winters Park Trails separates the mountains from the plains. To the east of the hogback is the Dinosaur Ridge Visitor Center, another attraction to visitors; furthermore, the hogback is the center of wild-life views in the area.



Giddy-up! The Matthews/Winters Park Trail system offers terrain for horseback riding, hiking, and biking.

chimney gulch trail

ALL PHOTOS: NEELHA MUDIGONDA / OREDIGGER



Up the chimney. Beautiful views greet hikers at the top of the Chimney Gulch Trail.

A couple of access points to this trail are from Lookout Mountain west of US 6 and the roadside parking on US 6 eastbound from Highway 58. This trail is a major attraction to mountain-bikers and hikers who like to challenge themselves with intensely elevated heights.

The Chimney Gulch Trail climbs 2000 feet in a relatively short distance of 2.5 miles from US 6 to the peak of the Lookout Mountain, taking its visitors through grass prairies and pine forests, and to streams and creeks.

The gulch gets its name from the fast moving wildfires in the area, which explains the natural vegetation that grows in the area. "I see deer up on Chimney Gulch every time I bike up there," a local mountain biker recalled. "Going late in the afternoon is the best time to go," said another biker. "That's when the trail is the prettiest." The tourist attractions at the top of the trail include Buffalo Bill's Grave, the Boettcher Mansion, and the Lookout Mountain Nature center, which is located at the summit of the mountain where the trail ends.

south table mountain

South Table Mountain is located just southeast of Golden with an intriguing formation history. Its highlight is its cap, formed of basalt from ancient lava flows. An access point to hike South Table Mountain is in a neighborhood at the end of 19th street.

The curvy path makes the hike easier because of the lack of rapid elevation gain, but

path gets rockier and steeper towards the summit. South Table Mountain is renowned for the view from the top.

Hikers are well rewarded with an amazing view of Golden and its surroundings as well as the mountains. "The hike is well-worth the view of the city," said a hiker. "The view of the sunset from the very top is the best."



Bird's eye view. The view of Golden from the top of South Table Mountain is worth the climb.

apex park

Starting at the Heritage Square parking lot, Apex Park is approximately an 800 foot climb between the parking lot and Lookout Mountain road. One of the trails of the Apex Park runs parallel to the Chimney Gulch Trail, making the Chimney Gulch Trail and the Apex trail close neighbors.

The park consists of all levels of difficulties for hiking and biking. Many horseback riders as well as visitors who come to enjoy the scenery are often present on the easier hiking trails. The view of the snow-capped mountains in the background

is a treat for many of its visitors.

One of the most popular routes that the mountain bikers take is the Apex Trail West to Apex gulch, which in turn leads to the Pick n' Sledge trail and the Grubstake loop. This route climbs uphill for approximately 2 miles before meeting the Enchanted Forest.

enchanted forest trail

Mountain-bikers who seek more adventure and difficulty and want to return to the foothills rather than continuing uphill choose the Enchanted Forest path. This path is "hard and known for its rapid drops; sometimes, the mudslides make it even harder," said a biker.



At the Apex. From Heritage Square, hikers can embark on a 800 ft climb.

Starting at Mines!

Sophie Hancock
Staff Writer

From saying bye to your folks to trying to remember 50 names at once, the haze of the first day of university can be something of a survival challenge.

You could have spent the morning cramming every one of your beloved belongings into the car trunk. You could have spent a number of hours on the motorway with your family, either being calmed by them as they reassure you that you'll survive this monstrous experience – or you giving comfort to your folks, explaining that while you may have flown the nest, but you still love them. The following lines probably serve either scenario: “the semesters are short,” “it'll be over before you know it,” “it's not that far away,” and so on.

Once that ordeal is over, your first task may well be to dispatch your parents. They'll want a tour of your new accommodation, maybe a quick handshake with the warden/senior resident, and then it's time for the goodbyes. After unloading the car, you might simply say “goodbye mom/dad,” not as a farewell, but an instruction.

Then you'll move on to claim your key and... don't panic! Your new abode may appear to resemble more of a bomb shelter or a storage facility for Goodwill rejects than home sweet home, but it will look much more like the cozy place you had been dreaming of, once you install your clutter into its confined space.

My undergrad residences room happened to be the most garish shades of duck egg blue and lime green imaginable, but it soon became home to for a wonderful freshman year of adventures. In any case, your communal spaces will be decorated in all manner of DIY ways over the first term. Whether it be with a pyramid of emptied cans or any number of strange collections, freshman find their own unique ways to make their mark.

The best piece of advice I got for starting Uni was to pack a doorstep. In the 450 person residence in central London, when ‘at home’ I left my door open and got chatting to anyone strolling down the hall. It's a small gesture but an essential one, conveying that you are friendly and ready to meet new people.

Next, there's time for a few fleeting introductions and sheepish handshakes, before you are shipped off to some social event. Here are two challenges for you to overcome: first, try to remember a succession of names, subjects, home-towns and other little tidbits of information being bowled at you. Just have an interesting couple of questions to hand, or some engaging things to say for yourself – maybe your summer holiday or your gap year. But don't go on too much. No-one wants to be an intrepid gapper who can't stop blathering on about how much he/she has found him/herself and how they've seen/discovered/healed the world blah blah blah. But this tactic really works. It's those kind of details that stop everyone meshing into one amorphous mess. Just be careful to stay on the right side of attentive

and curious, and not on the wrong side of obsessive stalker.

Do have a blast, but make at least a token attempt to stay healthy. The notorious freshman flu is pretty self-explanatory. Throw a load of youngsters from all over the country, and, in fact, the world, into close quarters and the first time being away from home (read: dire food) – and you haven't got the easiest pathway to healthy living. Perhaps you should even bring the cold remedies and Echinacea with you in advance.

Finally, when you get back to your residence and you enter the early hours with your newly-found friends, bear the following piece of advice in mind. People often tend to stick together and fall into their comfort zones in a pretty short space of time. So make the most of your enthusiasm. Invest in that

Starting University is just like a buffet. Use your first week at university, and especially your first day, to be an adventurous eater.

Get a taste of as much as you can. Just pace yourself; no-one wants indigestion.

Bon appétit!

doorstop, and you may find that your hospitality results in your room being the social centre of your corridor. Meet lots of people and don't just attach yourself to a small enclave of like-minded freshers. “Don't be like me and end up stuck with the same morons,” advises one recent graduate, who unsurprisingly wishes to remain nameless. “Yeah, don't get stuck”, her (also anonymous) friend agrees. It's good advice; there are hundreds of other freshman - and second, third year or grad students at this small university waiting to be acquainted with you. They are not strangers – they're just friends you haven't made yet (cheesy as it sounds).

But the best advice is just take it easy. If you arrive late, have forgotten your favourite teddy, think that everyone's staring at you, or your room stinks of damp, just take it in your stride. In terms of expectations, it's probably best just not to have any. Being a freshman can be really daunting, especially that first trip down to the canteen for dinner.

I remember speaking to a very good friend who went to Uni a year before I did. She said she was pretty bored and wiling the hours away on her newly-purchased laptop. When I had spent a couple of days in my gaudy yellow room, I kind of knew what she meant. For a lot of people, the whole week is haze of unbridled euphoria. But for many freshman, student life doesn't provide an instant sensation of hedonistic elation. For most, orientation is about getting used to new surroundings, new people and a new stage of your life. Just enjoy it.

Starting University really isn't that scary, honest. All the clichés apply (“you're all in the same boat” being just one of them), but to steal a metaphor from a recent acquaintance – it is just like a buffet. Use

your first week at university, and especially your first day, to be an adventurous eater. Get a taste of as much as you can. Just pace yourself; no-one wants indigestion. Bon appétit!

SURVIVAL ESSENTIALS: Don't forget to...

Bring: a stash of passport/government issued photos and a notebook. They're a must for the stream of forms, I.D. cards, and membership cards you'll be receiving in your first week, and a to do list will help you get all that admin done in time so you can start relaxing and settling in.

Read: *Starter for Ten*, by David Nicholls, or if this is too English for you, try *A Question of Attraction*, the American title of the same book. It's a witty and entertaining read about one spotty student's first year at university in England. You will laugh, cry, and cringe following the protagonist's faltering steps into life as a freshman in the 1980s. Share in his encounters at the ‘Tarts and Vicars’ fancy-dress party along with his hapless attempts to woo the girl of his dreams. Alternatively watch the funny film version of *Starter for 10*, produced by Tom Hanks.

Visit: all-consuming Facebook. It will become your virtual home once you enter student life, so you may as well start making friends now! Create a group for your specific course at your university and start networking.

Join: at least one truly wacky society. When you're at orientation, talk to all the clubs and societies, you'll surely leave with handfuls of freebies. But don't forget the



PHOTO COURTESY OF: WWW.DAMNLIKETHAT.COM

societies that will overwhelm you, both in terms of their number, their bizarre breadth, and of course SPAM! That said, any club, and especially any sport-based club, is a great way to build teammates into new mates. Societies and clubs

have a great sense of shared community and are fabulous at organizing social events and introducing people to one another - you may even find you socialize more than play.

Enjoy: Mines is a uniquely Western school, not a typical college, with nearby hiking, camping, bicycling, kayaking, fly fishing, rock climbing, and white-water rafting. For skiing and snowboarding,

there are about a dozen major ski areas within 1-4 hours drive from campus. Denver and Boulder are within 20 miles of campus, offering all the attractions of a large metropolitan area. The social environment is informal and friendly, and

Students are active in more than 100 clubs and organizations.

the academic environment is competitive, but not cutthroat. Mines attracts ambitious and motivated students, staff, and faculty, but we

are not only about work; Mines offers 18 varsity sports and over 50 club and intramural teams. Students are active in more than 100 clubs and organizations including music, student government, Greek Life, religious, cultural, special interest, and professional groups.

Ditch your bank and join Credit Union of Colorado!

You're already qualified! You're eligible to become a member of Credit Union of Colorado, thanks to being a CSM student.

Open a checking account with us and you will get all the benefits of being a credit union member combined with the easy access our CSM branch offers.



Free checking—Your money will be at your fingertips with a checking account and Visa debit card.

Convenience—As the closest financial institution to CSM, we're located just off-campus.

ATM access—There is a Credit Union of Colorado ATM located in the Ben Parker Student Center.

Easy money transfers—Wire money from home to school when you need it.

Online access—Take advantage of our Bill Pay and other free, secure online banking services at www.cuofco.org.

And more—We also offer Visa Platinum Credit Cards to those who qualify, savings and money market accounts with great yield rates, and low-rate loans.



This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

Credit Union of Colorado at Colorado School of Mines

Locations throughout Colorado including: 1800 Jackson Street, Golden CO

303-832-4816 | www.cuofco.org

THE DENVER

Venues:

General Information:

The Denver music scene would not exist if it were not for the tireless efforts of bands, promoters, and venues. Most music venues in the Mile High city are also historical landmarks, renovated with modern equipment, but still paying homage to their roots.

East Colfax:

The Bluebird

As with many music venues, The Bluebird has a sordid past, and was once a porno theater. Fortunately for music fans, the XXX's on the marquis have been replaced with the likes of Vampire Weekend, Lucero, and Minus The Bear. The Bluebird, as with most renovated theaters, boasts multiple levels for viewing the generously sized stage. Expect shows here to be moderately priced (less than what you'd pay at the Fillmore, but more than the Hi-Dive).

LoDo:

The Marquis

Among the bars and clubs of downtown sits an all-ages venue that has played host to some of the hottest bands from across the country. The Marquis, a venue operated by promotions company Soda Jerk Presents, features a separate bar and pizzeria so that concertgoers of any age can have a good time. While the venue is rather small, especially when compared to other Denver music outlets, the intimate setting allows for fans to experience bands in a way that is not possible at larger concert halls. Featured acts have included mewwithoutYou, Sherwood, Saosin, and many other bands popular to the "MySpace generation."

The Denver Center for the Performing Arts

Home to ten performance venues and over 10,000 seats, the Denver Center For the Performing Arts is one of the mile high city's gems. Performances at the center occur every week and range from opera to classical music, and even include Broadway productions. Students at the Colorado School of Mines have been given opportunities to experience productions, such as Spamalot, and concerts by the Colorado Symphony Orchestra at discounted prices. Whether you're on a date, or just want to dress up for a show, the Denver Center For the Performing Arts is a classy venue for enjoying the finer parts of society and culture.

Golden/Morrison:

Red Rocks Amphitheater

The ancient sandstone monoliths that form the natural amphitheater at Red Rocks have provided an awe-inspiring venue for musicians for over 100 years. The current configuration of Red Rocks came about when Franklin Roosevelt and his "New Deal" plan created the Civilian Conservation Corps, who developed the mountain area into a working performance center during the 1940's. As one of the best outdoor venues in the world, Red Rocks has seen the likes of The Beatles, U2, The Fray, Muse, and many other historic acts. While tickets to Red Rocks shows usually start in the low \$40 range, the park can be visited for free when there are no events happening.

Capitol Hill:

The Ogden

Another historic venue on Capitol Hill, the Ogden was built in 1913, used for performances and movie showings until it went under new ownership in 1993. At that point the venue became a hot spot for concerts. The Ogden boasts an innovative theater design with balconies and a tiered main general admission area. Concerts are moderately priced and have featured the likes of Green Day, Ben Harper, Allman Brothers Band, Blink 182, Smashing Pumpkins, and the Goo Goo Dolls.

The Fillmore Auditorium

This historic venue on the hill has a colorful history and has played host to some of the world's most famous acts. Built near the turn of the 20th century, the Fillmore underwent many changes until the current owners decided to model it after the famous San Francisco music venue. As one of the largest venues in Denver, the Fillmore has hosted the likes of Feist, Rise Against, Brand New, Motion City Soundtrack, and other bands that have become popular on both mainstream radio and television. Concertgoers should expect to pay more for tickets to Fillmore shows, but oftentimes the extra cost is worth seeing some of the most popular and innovative groups performing today.

South Denver:

The Gothic

The golden age of cinema birthed the Gothic. During the 1920's, the theater served as a one of the main entertainment spots on southern Broadway. Similar to the Ogden and Fillmore, the Gothic switched uses and ownership several times before becoming what it is today. The mid-sized concert hall features balconies and a tiered main area (similar to the Ogden). Bands that have played the Gothic include indie legends Nada Surf and Built To Spill in addition to Say Anything, Saves The Day, Lucero, Mute Math, Talib Kveli, and countless other up-and-coming acts.

The Hi-Dive

A classic dive bar, complete with some of the most excellent live music you'll ever see. Nestled in the heart of the South-Broadway bar district, the Hi-Dive has been the launching platform for many local groups, and a favorite of nationally renowned bands from the indie scene. The most refreshing thing about the Hi-Dive is their lack of attitude (usually associated with LoDo). Most shows are incredibly affordable, and oftentimes serve as a way of broadening musical boundaries. Another nice thing about the Hi-Dive: Sputnik, the café/bar next door that specializes in down-to-earth eating and service.

MUSIC SCENE

Tim Weilert, Content Manager

Bands:

General Information:

In recent years the Denver music scene has become more prominent on a national and world level. While some Denver-based bands like The Fray have found mainstream success, there are countless other bands that are bound to be the "next big thing."

The Epilogues (theepilogues.com)

New wave is certainly not dead, we have The Epilogues here to prove it. They've taken pop-punk music and infused it with a splash of 80's synth-rock.

Ian Cooke

(myspace.com/iancooke)

Sometimes a solo act, sometimes a player with a band, Ian Cooke plays the cello how most people play guitar. His use of looping effects during live performances (along with his smooth, deep voice), makes him a memorable musician.

The Wheel (nathanielrateliff.com)

There are few side-projects that have more steam than their original group. The Wheel (Nathaniel Rateliff of Born In The Flood) has taken his once-simple acoustic songs and flushed them out to a full-band experience.

The Heyday (theheydaymusic.com)

A group of high-school friends who decided to keep going with their dreams of being rock stars, The Heyday's brand of rock music is reminiscent of pleasant summer days and great parties.

Houses (we-are-houses.com)

There are few bands that have the sheer musicianship that Houses has. As a fairly new group (they've been around for less than a year), they've taken the Denver scene by storm, releasing the first in a 4 part series of critically acclaimed EPs.

Young Coyotes (weareyoungcoyotes.com)

As one of the best new bands of 2009, Young Coyotes combines intense vocals with reverb-heavy acoustic guitar and intricate drum work. As a special treat, stream this band's entire debut EP *Basement* on their website.

Meese (meesemusic.com)

A breakthrough on the national scene, Meese debuted their album *Broadcast* on Atlantic Records this summer. A combination of catchy hooks and pop-instruments drive most of Meese's songs, especially radio-hit "The Start of It."

Paper Bird (paperbirdband.com)

Self described as makers of "joyful music," Paper Bird combines old-fashioned gospel harmonies with folk instruments and adds a touch of New Orleans-style jazz to the mix. Prepare to be in a good mood after listening to any song from Paper Bird.

Bad Weather California (badweathercalifornia.blogspot.com)

As a bunch of rambunctious underground punk rockers with a taste for reverb, Bad Weather California sounds like mixing Elvis with Black Flag. An eclectic combination of slide guitar and surf beats, this group will certainly get you moving.

Rob Drabkin (robdabkin.com)

For those times when you just want to chill and kick back a few good tunes, there's Rob Drabkin. As one of Denver's best singer-songwriters, he recently opened for the Mile High Music Festival, and will be playing Parfet Park in Golden on August 28.

Bela Karoli (belakaroli.com)

As part of a growing "avant-pop" scene, Bela Karoli features a fresh take on some classic instrumentation. Accompanied by an upright bass, accordion, and violin, singer Julie Davis's silky voice floats and weaves its way through each track.

The Photo Atlas (thephotoatlas.com)

In a young and vibrant scene, The Photo Atlas always goes out of their way to have fun with their music. They combine incredibly danceable beats with pop-punk inspired guitars and vocals.

Dualistics (dualistics.com)

Take the best in early 90's alternative rock, lose the ridiculous hairstyles and baggy pants, add more guitars and you've got Dualistics. With a hard-hitting sound and a constant striving for innovation, they could be the next radio-hit.

Trace Bundy (tracebundy.com)

An acoustic guitar instrumentalist, Trace Bundy knows his way around a six stringed instrument. With a knack for storytelling and intricate guitar-work, Trace Bundy knows how to put on an excellent live show.

Gregory Alan Isakov (thefreight.net)

This musician typifies everything that is right with the Denver music scene. Combining relaxing folk melodies with a classy Bob Dylan-esque tenacity for lyrics, Gregory Alan Isakov may have been a globetrotter, but he's placed some good roots in Colorado.

Danielle Ate The Sandwich (myspace.com/danielleatethesandwich)

There is beauty in simplicity, and there is no truer case than Danielle Ate The Sandwich of Fort Collins. No stranger to the Denver scene, Danielle, with her ukulele and soothing voice can often be found playing in coffee shops and bars all along the Front Range.



TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER



TIM WEILERT / OREDIGGER

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BACKGROUND PHOTOS COURTESY BENGSOON CHUAH

Finding the Right Laptop - Buyer's Guide 2009

Ian Littman
Assistant Webmaster

So you are an incoming freshman. You know you need a computer to work efficiently at school (e.g. completing assignments the night before they're due after the computer labs have closed). However, you want a system that will be as speedy and reliable, if not more so, than what Mines has to offer. In addition to these requirements, you don't want to break the bank.

Fortunately, technology has progressed to the point that it's very hard to get an absolute dog of a computer. An immediate family member just nabbed a Compaq notebook (full-sized, not a netbook) for \$298 plus tax from Wal-Mart, and it appears to be a perfectly capable system. That said, if you want a laptop that you don't need to replace during your stay at col-

lege, you *will* need to pay more. This guide's purpose is to make sure your precious dollars don't go to naught. It also addresses some of the hot items out on the market now, hopefully helping in your quest to find these products' true worth, beneath the mountains of hype.

1. Macs

Depending on what you do with them, Apple products range from best-in-class to subpar, expensive, nice-looking pieces of computing equipment. At Mines, you have to be a bit careful of the latter, as you *will* have to load a copy of Windows onto your Mac at some point. Most applications won't care

whether this copy of Windows is virtualized (VirtualBox is my favorite avenue for this task, and is getting better by the month) or running on bare metal, though you probably will care.

The reason: Apple makes Macs, not PCs; their driver support on the PC side is just enough to get the job done. The biggest example of this is with their trackpad setup; unless they've changed the drivers recently, there's no such



thing as tap-to-click on Windows with an Apple product. Virtualize Windows in OS X and you get all the hardware features you expect, albeit with a bit of a performance hit from running one operating system on top of another.

With those caveats in mind (you'll need to run Windows at times, and Macs aren't primarily Windows computers), Apple is a solid option for an all-purpose computer. Apple actually makes a few concessions on the notorious "Apple tax" to student buyers, throwing in a \$50-plus discount and a free iPod touch with every order at this point. Thus, the two best values on the Apple front are \$949 and \$1099 (plus tax, plus Windows) instead of \$999 and \$1199, respectively. These prices are for the lowest-end Apple portable and the next model up: the white MacBook and the lowest-end thirteen-inch MacBook Pro, respectively.

Both are good machines, but the \$150 upgrade from plastic to metal gets you a thinner, lighter, slightly faster machine with a battery life boost from solid to insane (in my experience, Apple portables meet or exceed advertised battery life).

For camera mavens, the current generation of MacBook Pro is the first and only set of Apple products to include an SD card reader built-in. The MacBook Pro does have some caveats over the white MacBook however, (other than cost) as the MacBook Pro has no dedicated audio-in port, and the Pro's integrated battery trades ease of replacement for time unplugged.

2. Netbooks and Pseudo-netbooks

You've probably heard of (or seen in Target or Best Buy) these web-centric mini-computers. It seems as though every computer brand and component manufacturer (from ASUS to Toshiba) makes their own slight variation on the theme: an Intel Atom processor running around 1.6 GHz, a gi-

gabyte or two of memory, a hard drive or solid state disk (SSD) and Windows XP. Thus, performance varies little between one manufacturer's netbook and another, though build quality, battery, and (most importantly) keyboard size measurements do set some portables out of the pack.

The reason keyboard size is important is simple: you don't want to take notes on a keyboard that induces repetitive stress injury after a few dozen keystrokes. I've found that the older Asus Eee PCs tend to have this problem; you end up holding the computer in both hands and typing with your thumbs, to the detriment of speed and accuracy. On the other hand, some manufacturers make room for full-size keyboards on their machines, though touchpad size may suffer as a result. Dell and HP are part of this group, as is Acer to my knowledge, with their Aspire One series.

At this point however, the netbook recommendation should be extended to Lenovo (aka IBM), with their IdeaPad S10-2 and S12 computers. What they lack in customization they make up for in solid build quality, good battery life, and relatively low pricing. However they're a bit vanilla in features offered. For thin profiles or nine-inch-screen tablets, ASUS and MSI have the market covered. For video mavens, HP and Acer now offer computers with a special video decoder chip inside, taking the strain of video playing off of their netbooks' rather anemic processor and graphics subsystems. No matter what sort of netbook you want, try to find a place that sells the computer in question, if for no other reason than to test for cramp-inducing keyboards.

Beyond the netbook category, there is a growing class of optical-driveless systems with larger screens, faster processors and higher price tags. These computers still weigh in at lower price points than a MacBook Air or even a midrange mainstream portable, but there is a definite price premium for getting the latest operating system, better processing power, and a bigger screen than is provided with a netbook. The "pseudo-netbook" category is a bit of a grey area at this point, spanning low-power, thin, thirteen-inch models like the Lenovo IdeaPad U350 and the fourteen-inch Dell Studio 14z, whose only difference from a full notebook of similar size is the lack of an optical drive and, surprisingly, better integrated graphics.

One note: if you want to buy a netbook but are unsure of how you'll fare with no ability to read or write optical media, a host of vendors are now making "bus-powered" slimline USB DVD burners for \$80 or less. For those on a tighter budget, portability can be traded for speed and price by getting a

full-sized external DVD burner, at prices closer to \$50. In any case, keep in mind that netbooks aren't meant to be used as primary computers; plan on spending time at a desktop computer (your own or the school's) for tasks where heavier-duty computing is required.

3. Windows 7 and Snow Leopard

If you're buying a computer with Windows Vista on it, make sure that the version included is Home Premium or better (not Home Basic). The reason: Windows 7 will be arriving October 22, and while it's worth the price of an upgrade the differential between Home basic and Home Premium on a new computer is a much lower price to pay for the increase in performance, reliability, and user interface styling that Windows 7 brings.

From the perspective of someone who has been testing Windows 7 since before it was officially available, no computer should be running Windows Vista after Windows 7's release date, if at all possible. Windows 7 performs better on the same hardware versus Vista, yet includes all the modern conveniences of Microsoft's current operating system.

If your computer choice includes one of the major manufacturers (Acer, Asus, Dell, Gateway, etc.) and the Home Premium version of Vista, you're covered in this free upgrade policy. However, to double-check eligibility, go to www.windows7.com.

If your computer of choice is an Apple, the situation is similar with OS X. In late September, Apple's new "Snow Leopard" operating system version will be released. The cost of entry for Leopard-based machines is a mere \$29, or free, plus shipping, if you're buying a Mac right now. On the Microsoft-powered side, the answer is clear-cut: spend money on Windows 7, not Windows Vista.

4. "I just want a Wintel"

For those who want a laptop of average size, weight and operating system, they're still for sale. Aside from a Vista Home Premium or better operating system (see above), there are a few important things to look for in a computer that you want to last through your time here at Mines. These specifications may take less expensive laptops out of the equation, but the below choices will likely save money in the long run.

1. An Intel Processor, Core 2 Duo if possible. AMD's lineup is still too power-hungry at this point for use away from the outlet for extended periods. Intel's processors make for more expensive machines, but the increase in battery life is worth it. Make sure to get a Core 2 Duo however; Celerons and Pentium Dual Core processors may not have the power management technologies baked in that give Intel chips a battery life boost over AMD units.

SEE LAPTOPS ON PAGE 8

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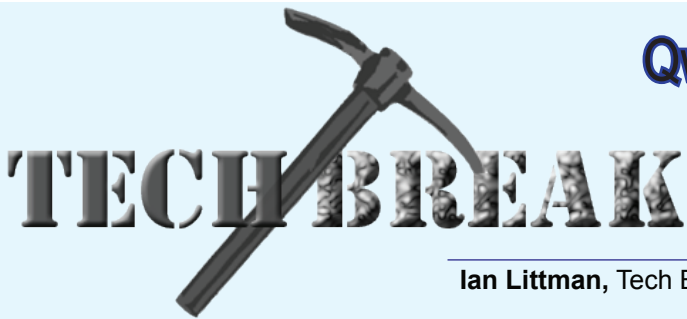
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Qwest starts competing with next-gen Broadband

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Ian Littman, Tech Break Columnist

If you're reading *The Oredigger* for the first time, you probably should know that I'm an internet geek in a profound way. As such, if anything is afoot with Comcast, Qwest or their (rather weak, unfortunately) competition in this area, you'll hear about it either in print or online, via the *Tech Break* blog. For example, over the summer, Comcast and Qwest have both upped the ante in the Denver area, to the point that next-gen internet speeds might make it into Golden via one of the two providers sometime this decade (my cynicism is not without reason).

In the Golden area, the first move is likely to come from Comcast, who has vowed to upgrade all of their cable networks to the DOCSIS 3.0 standard by the end of 2010, with 65% of markets upgraded by the end of this year. The company is currently just above the halfway mark on deployment of the technology, which combines multiple radio frequency channels together to create a large internet "pipe", shared among the same few hundred subscribers as their older systems but with network capacity gains of a few hundred percent.

The result of the channel-bonding technology is speed upgrades for all Comcast customers in areas where the tech is deployed, and higher speed tiers for those who

want them. In numbers, current six-megabit Comcasters will get doubled speeds on downloads and uploads (to twelve megabits down and two megabits up per second). Those (like myself) on the eight-megabit "Performance Plus" tier will be upgraded to "Blast" service, doubling download speeds to sixteen Mbps. A new "Ultra" tier will provide 22 Mbps down and 5 Mbps up for \$10 more than Performance Plus-turned-Blast, and Comcast's flagship "Extreme" tier will offer a whopping 50 Mbps on downloads and 10 Mbps on uploads, for the princely sum of \$99.99 per month with TV, \$116.99 per month without.

Currently, Denver doesn't have these speeds, and Comcast may have to move an analog channel or two to their digital tiers before the upgrades happen, however they have recently upgraded their Golden systems on the way to DOCSIS 3.0. The interim upgrade, DOCSIS 2.0, allows for higher upload capacity per channel by a factor of three. The visible difference to users is that upload PowerBoost now significantly decreases the time short uploads take. On my Comcast account, I've gone from roughly 2.8 Mbps on an upload PowerBoost to 10-11 Mbps, not shabby at all when Comcast's PowerBoost lasts long enough to upload a dozen high-resolution photos or a movie from my (cheap-but-high-res

Kodak) point-and-shoot.

Be advised however that even with DOCSIS 3.0 in play, Comcast still officially has a 250 gigabyte per month usage cap on their residential cable connections, potentially making online backup and other data-intensive activities a questionable idea on a residential-grade link. The caps are currently rarely enforced however, partly due to the lack of an ISP-provided meter for usage, and partly because Comcast stands to gain nothing by kicking heavy users off of the more uncongested parts of their network. That said, Comcast's more expensive business cable internet service is absolutely free of the 250GB "soft cap."

Until a few weeks ago, Comcast's competition in this area (Qwest) has done nothing to push out next-generation speeds on their infrastructure. In Denver and other areas they had deployed "fiber optic" ADSL2+ (copper for the last several thousand feet) with less-than-next-generation results: download speeds that realistically topped out at about 17 Mbps, and uploads that wouldn't get past 720 kbps (kilobits per second). Even then, many areas (those served out of a central office rather than a remote terminal, for the technically inquisitive) got left with 3, 5, 7, or even 1.5 megabit DSL, minus about 15% for overhead.

In late July however Qwest de-

cided to up the ante in selected areas, choosing VDSL2 (Very High Speed Digital Subscriber Line) as their upgrade path, a modus operandi similar to AT&T with their U-Verse product. The difference with Qwest, however, is that their VDSL2 service will be internet-only, whereas AT&T's older VDSL system delivers voice, video, and internet over a single copper pair.

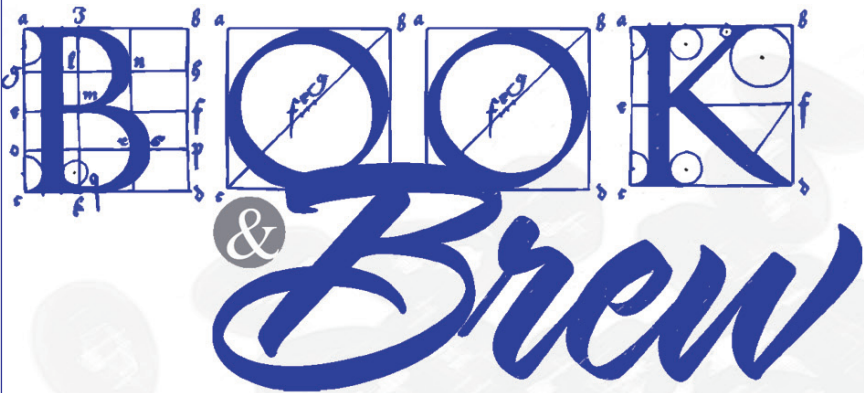
This allows Qwest to amp up speeds to a whopping 40 megabits per second over existing copper lines. More importantly, competition-wise, they're offering a top-end package with 20 Mbps of upload speed, something that no US cable internet provider is even capable of matching. Even the lowest VDSL2 tier (with 7 Mbps of download speed and a price just \$5 per month more than an equivalent old-style DSL plan) has 5 Mbps of upload bandwidth. Additionally, the new VDSL2 architecture on Qwest's side means that system overhead is lower, giving users speeds much closer to those advertised by the service; the new speed tiers give real-world speeds around 92% of those advertised, versus the older "15% rule."

There are some significant downsides to Qwest's new ultra-fast service however. First, pricing on Qwest's service, particularly on the high end, is actually worse than Comcast's equivalent offering sell for. On the other hand, Qwest customers aren't sharing their "last mile" like Comcast customers have to do.

On the topic of last miles, the second, and by far the largest, objection to Qwest's new system is that you probably are out of range,

and could still be out of range a few years down the road. While Comcast's cable systems can push out high speeds for miles with the right equipment, customers have to be less than a mile from Qwest's equipment to take advantage of VDSL speeds. 40/20 speeds may well only be available to customers half a mile or less away from Qwest's remote terminals. Added to this, Qwest doesn't have a track record of expanding next-generation service across their footprint; at this time Golden doesn't even have their ADSL2+ (up to twenty nominal megabits down, up to 896 nominal kilobits up) service available. So while selected areas of Denver, Colorado Springs, and Fort Collins are getting Qwest's next-gen speeds, some customers, even in Golden, are limited to 1.5 Mbps on downloads.

In short, Comcast and Qwest are both rolling out next-generation enhancements to their current copper-based networks, and these enhancements may hit a city near you sooner than later. Just don't wait with bated breath for Qwest to make it all the way to your door with VDSL2, and realize that Comcast may not turn DOCSIS 3.0 on in the Denver area until sometime next year. Then again, Comcast now has a business case for turning DOCSIS 3 on sooner than later in the Denver metro: non-anemic competition. Now, if only that competition would get the Mines-CDoT fiber ring built quicker; that high-speed glass should have been lit last spring, and as of press time it's still darker than TRN 020408. Close, anyway.



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From the Editor's Desk

Dear Incoming Students,
Welcome to the Colorado School of Mines! I hope you've enjoyed looking through our Summer Issue, and that some, or all, of this information will be useful to you. This is one of the goals of *The Oredigger* – to both inform and entertain. Here at the newspaper, we make it our constant aim to bring the happenings of our campus to the students, always with the hope that our readers will engage with the Faculty Senate, the Associated Students of the Colorado School of Mines (student government), and the rest of the campus community. We also do our best to bring the Golden community and the Mines community together through coverage of local news and local advertising.

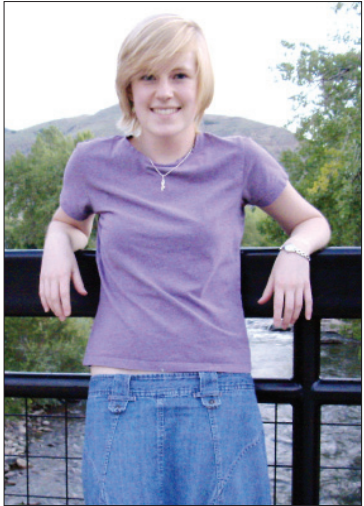
To do these things, of course, we require a dedicated staff. We couldn't do it without both our writers and our photographers, who provide all of the quality work we have the privilege to print. Our content managers write, take photos, manage a group of writers, and provide input on story ideas, layout, and editing. Within the Editorial Board, the web team designs, updates, and improves our website, oredigger.net. The business team works with local, national, and international companies to design advertisements and provide ad-

vertising opportunities. As a team, we design and edit the newspaper every week, look for stories around the community, and try to provide help to the writers, photographers, and content managers.

If you are interested in joining our team, e-mail spost@mines.edu. I will do the best I can to answer any questions you have in a timely manner. We will be having several informational meetings at the beginning of the school year. More information will be coming soon!

Thank you, and welcome to Mines!

Sara Post
Editor-in-Chief



Laptop recommendations

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

2. **At least 2GB of RAM, 3GB if possible.** Let's face it: memory is cheap, and the difference between 2GB and 3GB is just a few dollars. Also, Vista doesn't like running too well on 1GB, though for Windows 7 or Windows XP-based netbooks a single gigabyte is fine.

3. **Go integrated on graphics for better battery life, but make sure you have the latest chip.** Dedicated graphics are great for gaming, but dedicated graphics aren't good for battery life, nor is gaming for your grades. Integrated graphics chipsets have gotten better over the years to the point that Intel's GMA X4500 series will run older games with relative aplomb. Even better, nVidia's GeForce 9400 chip, found in all new Apple portables and some computers of other origin, can keep up with low-end dedicated GPUs, but with the battery life of an integrated part. If you must go dedicated however, a system (like the higher-end MacBook Pros) with switchable graphics uses integrated graphics when you need battery life and dedicated graphics when higher performance is

required.

4. **Pay attention to battery life.** Not every building is like the CTLM, the campus computing

for a full-sized computer with last-generation wireless; make sure your computer is fitted with an 802.11n-compatible wireless card, not an 802.11g one.

6. **An extended warranty is a good investment, as is a backup solution.** If you're on the clumsy side, accidental damage protection is also a good idea. Notebooks are a lot more expensive to repair than desktops, and things go wrong with them more often. Just don't spend \$300

on a warranty for a \$600 computer. On the backup side of things, BackBlaze, Mozy, and Carbonite all offer unlimited-storage packages around \$5 per month, and the campus has enough network bandwidth available to make off-site backups a breeze.

7. **Need recommendations?** Lenovo's IdeaPad Y-series are solid computers, as are Dell's Studio line. If you're willing to spend more money, HP's ProBooks and Dell's Vostro series are moderately priced and business-focused (read: built to last). For even higher-end computers, a Dell Latitude, a Lenovo ThinkPad T series, or an Apple product fit the category. Have any questions? Shoot me an e-mail at ilittman@mines.edu and I'll either answer directly or on the Tech Break blog, at www.minesblog.com/techbreak. Have a fun rest-of-the-summer and welcome to Mines!



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